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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/696,450

10/29/2003

Alex Kunzler

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EXAMINER

SWIGER III, JAMES L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,450

Applicant(s)

KUNZLER, ALEX

Examiner

James L. Swiger

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-22, 25-30, 34 and 35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 23-24, and 31-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/16/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Invention I claims 1-24 and 31-35 in the reply filed on 5/30/06 is acknowledged. Claims 25-30 and 21-22, 34 and 35 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 5/30/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-15, 17-18, 20, 23-24 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dietz et al. (US 5,653,714). Dietz et al. disclose a device to cut and prepare bone having a guide body (10), a bone removal device (6) having a longitudinal axis between its own proximal and distal portion (at 6 end), a pair of guide members (32), an alignment device movably engaged between guide body and device, and where the bone removal device is capable of being moved along a predefined pattern along the guide members in use. Dietz et al. also disclose that the guide members are rotatably, or pivotally connected to the bone removal device (via the projection to pivot, 36) where the guide members may also be considered rotationally connected. These pivots are also considered projections, and although only one is shown in Fig. 5, there

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would have to be a second one present, since in Fig. 5 only a cut away portion of the full device is shown. With regards to the bone milling pattern, the device is capable of producing a pattern either circular in shape or toroidal (donut-shaped) by the movement along the guide members if one wishes to do so. Further the guide members each have a major side surface (see profile in Fig. 3 of 32) and wherein the predetermined pattern may be in a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis (in the direction of the guide members), depending on how one looks at the device. The device may be considered to be housed in a "cage" (12) and has a connecting rod (42). The device also has an inner surface with a track (16) that enables the guide members to control said bone removal device. The bone prep device is also considered to have a bone removal element (the serrations of 6, see Fig. 7) that has an axis of rotation that may be considered offset with respect to the longitudinal axis. This axis may be considered substantially transverse depending on how it is oriented, therefore being capable of a non-linear predetermined pattern. The alignment device is also capable of controlling the speed and direction of its guide members, depending on how it is used.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietz et al. (US Patent 5,653,714) in view of Michelson (US Patent 6,537,279). Dietz et al.

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disclose the claimed invention except for the bone removal device being coupled to a power source. Michelson discloses a preparation device that is connected to a power source to help drive the device in use. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Dietz et al. having at least a power source (Col. 5, lines 1-14) to better use the device.

Claims 19 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietz et al. '714 in view of Morrison (US Patent 3,978,862). Dietz et al. disclose the claimed invention except for a gear. Morrison discloses a cutting device that has a gear (37) to aid in driving the cutter portion of the bone alignment device (Col. 3, lines 40-45). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Dietz et al. having at least a gear in view of Morrison to better operate the device to move the cutter in use.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James L. Swiger whose telephone number is 571-272-5557. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

 8/4/06

JLS


EDUARDO C. ROBERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER